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An Inaugural Essay

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Pneumonia Biliosa

For the degree of Doctor of Medicine

by

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of

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Maryland

Pneumonia is a genus of disease, arranged by Cullen, under the class of Pyrexia, and order Phlegmasia.

In particular instances, it has obtained the name of Bilious, from the evident derangement of the Liver which exists. In such cases, we have added to the ordinary symptoms of Pneumonia, pain in the head nausea and vomiting of bilious matter.

It is in fact a simple Pneumonia, grafted upon a bilious constitution.

Pneumonia Biliosa is to be met with in climates, remarkable, for frequent and sudden vicissitudes of weather, and in districts of Country, favourable to the generation of miasmata, and consequently to the production of Intermittent, and other fevers; which lay the foundation in the system, upon which Pneumonia Biliosa is erected.

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It has been a disease of common occurrence in the county, in which we have resided, for the last three or four years; during which time, - Intermittent, and remittent fevers, have been very prevalent.

The seasons for its appearance are Spring and Autumn. It selects for its subjects, such as have at some former period, labored under our ordinary autumnal fevers, and in whose systems, the ravages of their destructive influence, can still be traced. The sallow complexion, and cold extremities, enlarged Liver and Spleen, are all evidences, of what has transpired in the system.

Next to persons of this description, it attacks such, as are weak and debilitated from disease, or other causes; and particularly, those liable to pulmonary complaints.

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Women and children, are less liable to this complaint than men: and it has been remarked, that our black population, "are scarcely ever afflicted with this form of Pneumonia." Our limited experience, which we would not presume to stake against ample opportunities, in profession of reputed medical skill, does not accord with this statement. On the contrary the greater number of cases, we have had an opportunity of seeing, have occurred among negroes, and have presented the best marked cases of Pneumonia Biliosa, we recollect to have witnessed. The circumstance, of women and children, being in a great measure exempt, from this disease, is explicable by the fact, of their not being exposed, to the remote and exciting causes. Their temperance in living, and their forbearance in the

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use of Intoxicating liquors, (which have much to do in the production of disease when freely indulged in), afford them great protection, from disease generally. In the voluptuous and dissipated, a predisposition is constantly existing, and an exciting cause, is all that is wanting, for the production of some dangerous malady, rendered doubly so, by their degenerate habits, and broken constitutions.

We have now mentioned the principal causes, which create in the system, a predisposition, to the formation of Bilious Pleurisy.

Cold is the chief cause in the immediate production of the disease, and is consequently, what is called the exciting cause. It may be applied in various ways, as by becoming wet

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from exposure to rain, by sleeping in damp rooms, or in damp sheets, by being exposed to a current of air, when the body is heated, sometimes if the air be moist; and by getting the feet wet, which is so trivial, a very common source of catarrh and pulmonary complaints.

Cold as it acts upon the system is very interesting. When intense cold is applied to the system, it loses its caloric, pale. Then it is remedied, and when it is by a certain called the circulation ceases. But as soon and other causes, as the restoration of heat, a return to the sudden retirement of circulation, from the condemning results. The surface of the body becoming cadaverous, becomes more compressed and red. In certain states are constricted

d, and he died on the 6th or 7th
hours upon inland lands, then
water lands suffer from congestion,
inflammation &c

The symptoms of Pneumonia Bil
osa are as follows. After exposure
over for some time a slight indispo
sition, the patient feels a sensation
of cold, commencing along the back,
and extending down the extremi
ties. This sometimes amounts to a
rigor, and is succeeded by irregular
warmth, upon as the reaction takes
place. Pain sometimes occurs and is
correspondent to the chill. If you
assume the patient you will find
that the lungs to be affected on the
left side, reaching as low as
the region of the liver, and on
breathing as high as the clavicle.

[illegible] is dyspnoea with a sense of weight and [illegible] across the breast. The patient has cough, which increases very much his sufferings, from its violence, & a congested state. He has also considerable soreness, which renders auscultation difficult. The expectoration is sometimes free, and at other times it is entirely suppressed. The matter coughed up is sometimes streaked with blood, and [illegible], it has the appearance of being mixed with pus. The biliary secretion is sometimes entirely suspended, but is usually increased, as evinced by nausea, bitter taste in the mouth, vomiting of bilious matter &c. With these are the symptoms of fever, and [illegible] the [illegible] in the [illegible], [illegible]

tongue, subject to vital bowels.
The stomach and entrails
are in time. The pulse is quick, in
one, and at one moment, soft.
your stomach too much, more the
that attacks the mind with,
tender. The eye is sometimes
meet with bile, and be fresh as
and bustle as the days, then
stomach disease of stomach, some
times other times one day, so that
is hard colour to a patient, and
and time very much irritable, with
more soft, unbearable and sail,
unmistakable. The pain is such case,
in to wanted by you to be fatal,
weak to recently a new class of
work, and refusing time relaxed
pain. There is suffering of the
eye, which is a mysterious to

in severity of the disease. When
[illegible] may cause set in [illegible] speedily
is eliminated, the symptoms cease
to increase. Pain becomes more
intense, dyspnoea more and more dis-
tressing, until the inflammation [illegible]
[illegible] terminates, in resolution or effu-
sion, known by the subsidence of pain,
and the coming on of a chill succeed-
ed by certain dulness at [illegible] over
the side, with an [illegible]
of breathing. The [illegible] may [illegible] by
[illegible] circulation [illegible]
[illegible] relieves the [illegible] from
[illegible] sufferings. In this manner
cases sometimes terminate [illegible]
[illegible] but the [illegible]
[illegible] consolidation [illegible]
[illegible], commencing as of the [illegible]
[illegible] or [illegible] during life.

the pulmonary organs and then appear
ances are found the seat of the dis-
ease not were confined to these or-
gans, would one under the head
simple Pneumonia inflammation. But
we find the lung intermediate tissue
in the diseased state of the lungs, which
accumulates pus in a great mass
due typical peculiarity to the
tissues in question. With inflamma-
tion, there is also more or less congestion
in organs, and of the respiratory
tube. The same cause which induces
the inflammatory process, can also
give a tendency to create congestion.
The inflammation also excites in an or-
gan, besides causing a more copious
secretion, a flood to the part, and a ten-
dency to stasis of pus, and it is to these
ends, and we would attribute the pe-

mainly of the liver, suffusion of the skin, difficult micturition &c. If we suppose, that an exciting cause being applied, when the predisposition is in action in the system, would at one season produce a bilious fever, and at another, bilious, [illegible], & [illegible] [illegible], inflammation of the [illegible]. But cold [illegible] increases the inflammations, while heat in the summer, [illegible] causes the dysentery and [illegible] ing epidemics.

The Pathology of the disease being understood, its treatment is evident. We have inflammation, in organs highly essential to the purposes of life, which if not speedily checked, must ultimately end in their disorganization, and destruction. The indication, then is to [illegible] [illegible]

to propose inflammation: but at the
same time, we should carefully avoid
against debility, which we know in an
animal, is apt to ensue. For the pur
pose of arresting inflammation, we
are aware, that evacuant are the best
means, and that bloodletting is at
once, by most, considered one efficient
of this end. But the quantity that
should be abstracted, we should be in
duced governed, by the circumstances
of the case. For the rules by which we
should always be governed, in our treat
ment of disease, will not bear depletion,
merely to any great extent, as the patie
nt sometimes, have seen we. If a
man be struck, with the two instances
we have seen, that much vacuum, is
usually repeated, assume that. There
are instances, where we are sufficiently

of blood, from a patient, every morning, for some days, with marked advantage. Yesterday we gave him calomel, and aided its operation by some gentle laxative, at the same time, supporting the system with cordials, we exhibited the Dover's powder at night. The medicine then should be omitted, and repeatedly repeated. By pursuing this plan, we gain a striking advantage, which is that we enable the system to accede, and adapt itself to the loss, and in this way guard against that debility, which would almost inevitable, be the consequence of the removal of large quantities of blood. Again, by these small evacuations of blood, we prevent the inflammatory action from becoming so violent, as to destroy the parts which it occupies, and, aided by other means, we restore the secretions of the skin, and

mucous membrane of the lungs; when the patient begins immediately to recover. We however, still keep in mind, that there is nothing to equal large bleedings in the reduction, of inflammation when the nature of the case admits, and requires it. We shall soon find that by the loss, even of small quantities of blood that oppression and weight across the breast, are relieved, breathing freer and hair integated.

We should now direct our attention to the digestive and assimilating organs, and to the stomach, the great centre of sympathetic action, and the foremost mobile in the extension of remedial impression. We are aware, that medicines make their first impression on the stomach, and that this impression is conveyed to whatever part, or parts, upon

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which, it is known to exert its influence.
We have then, only to glance at the condition
of the stomach, and liver, and immediately
points out the plan to be pursued. It is
evident that something offensive, and
intolerable, exists in the stomach.
we is invaded by nausea, vomiting, aver
sion to food &c. It is then our duty,
to assist the curative operation of nature,
by the administration of an emetic. In
such cases we prefer the Ipecacuanha.
Emetics in their operation, unload the stom
ach and liver, equalize excitement, de
termine to the surface, and promote
secretion. A few grains of calomel,
administered either alone, or in combi
nation with camphor, as soon as the
stomach is sufficiently composed, and
repeated about once in three or four
hours, will be found extremely useful.

The calomel changes the secretion of the liver, and aperated by some aperient (we usually prefer Epsom Salts) carries off the whole contents of the bowels, whilst the medication recruits the powers of the system, after the operation of the remedy, and induces a gentle breathing perspiration over the surface of the body. This treatment, combined with the administration of antimonials and Dover's powder, assisted by the application of a large blister, upon the breast will in most instances put a speedy end to the disease. Concerning the time at which blisters should be applied there is some difference of opinion. It is the opinion of some that the system may be brought to what might be termed the blistering point by the use of the lancet, at any stage of a disease, and this is our belief. The blis-

ch then should be applied early and im
mediately over the seat of the pain. This
is the ordinary course of treatment
in Pneumonia & Pleurisy. But it is not
so happy to, always thus to triumph.
From unavoidable circumstances, the
disease sometimes assumes a more obsti
nate and violent appearance. The pain
is checked, returns, and with it there exists
a staggering state of mental and corpore
al debility. Respiration becomes hurried
and more difficult, and there is an ag
gravation of the symptoms generally.
We have here local inflammation &
constitutional debility, to stimulate the
system, would increase the inflam
matory symptoms, and to deplete would
be death. Here a nice discrimination
is requisite. The usual plan is to direct
our attention to the constitutional affection,

regardless of the local disease. But a mixed treatment is much more rational. The system should therefore be rendered, as far as under an aggravated state of excitement, whilst at the same time, we cautiously use depletion. The best remedies then for the fulfilment of the several indications, consist in a combination of calomel, opium and camphor. It has been supposed that opium, as a stimulant increases life, than other the inflammation in some cases. The opium and camphor then keep the circulation to a proper standard, during which time a criminal promoted by the use of cathartics, aided, depleted by its action upon the secretion, the liver and intestines. Local bloodletting and warm fomentations, should not be neglected

The calomel also removes the vitiated contents of the bowels. And we shall find that the system will react, instead of being weakened, by those evacuations. It is a fact, well known, that the secretions of the Liver, and Intestines, when suffered to remain any length of time, become vitiated, and produce depression of strength; and that the removal of this matter, is of great importance in the cure of certain diseases. In extreme cases of debility, we must turn our attention entirely to the constitutional symptoms. Stimulants must be resorted to, to sustain the sinking condition of the system, and those of the most powerful kind. Give camphor in large doses, in form of julap; wine, carbonate of ammonia; and apply blis-

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ters to the neck, and extremities. And so fine nothing should be left undone, that possesses any efficacy, in arousing the systems. But, sometimes when all hopes are abandoned, effusion takes place, a vomica form, and the patient recovers. When vomica form, and burst, we must support the strength of the patient, by tonics, and a generous diet. If we could anticipate the result, and feel assured that the termination, would be an effusion into the Cavity of the thorax, the previous introduction of Mercury into the system, would be highly advantageous. When effusion has taken place the patient recovers from the immediate danger, The treatment usually adopted in Hydrothorax should be commenced as soon as possible.